

Application No. 10/715,660
Amendment dated March 15, 2006
Reply to Advisory Action of January 25, 2006

REMARKS

Status Of Application

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,438,869 to Mueller et al. ("Mueller Patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,859,651 to Thomas, Jr. ("Thomas Patent").

Claims 11-14 are allowed.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1 – 10 have been cancelled.

Claims 11, 13 and 14 have been amended to correct grammatical errors. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

Claims 15 through 22 have been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 11-14, by the Examiner, is noted with appreciation.

No New Matter

This Amendment is being presented promptly after the discovery of the need therefor. This Amendment does not affect the scope of the claims, does not introduce any new matter, does not present any new issue, does not require any additional search, and will not present an undue burden on the personnel of the Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Amendment be entered in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.312.

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35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

The rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,438,869 to Mueller et al. ("Mueller Patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,859,651 to Thomas, Jr. ("Thomas Patent"), has been rendered moot by the cancellation of those claims.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,438,869 to Mueller et al. ("Mueller Patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,859,651 to Thomas, Jr. ("Thomas Patent"), be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Hitchcock Evert LLP's Deposit Account No. 503374.

Any fee required by this document other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Hitchcock Evert LLP's Deposit Account No. 503374. Any refund should be credited to the same account.


If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be

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construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Hitchcock Evert LLP's Deposit Account No. 503374. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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